

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## RIVERS OF STEEL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



The Bost Building, present-day  
Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area

[www.riversofsteel.com](http://www.riversofsteel.com)

In the heart of the *Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area* in Pennsylvania, the once-shuttered steel mill towns that made up the backbone of U.S. Steel and Andrew Carnegie's industrial empire are experiencing an economic resurrection. The towns of Homestead, Munhall, Swissvale and Rankin - all of which share parts of the former U.S. Steel Homestead Works - are witnessing a rebirth which is due to an economic partnership between Rivers of Steel, the local governments, and the real estate development company responsible for the revitalization of the former steel mill site. In the sprawling 500-plus acre industrial brownfield, new businesses and homes have sprouted. They are all complimented by the National Heritage Area's efforts to convince developers and local governments to save and reuse nationally significant properties as foundations for community revitalization.

Today, these properties which are National Historic Landmarks or on the National Register - the Carrie Furnaces and the Rankin Hot Metal Bridge, along with the Battle of Homestead Site and The Bost Building - are destinations for thousands of visitors from around the world. They are interconnected by the Steel Valley Trail, a hiking and biking trail that is a part of the Great Allegheny Passage, a 350-mile trail soon to connect Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C. The investment of Heritage Partnership Funds into these historic properties and the trail has helped spearhead a redevelopment effort that has contributed to the economic development of these towns, created hundreds of construction and business related jobs and generated tax revenues to rescue them from bankruptcy.

The investment of \$3.53 million in Heritage Partnership Funds has led to an overall investment of \$30.3 million.

The creation of over 1,300 construction and business related jobs is a result of this redevelopment effort.



The Bost Building before



The Bost Building before



Carrie Furnaces Hard Hat Tour